1:Dobrizhoffer M-5 (ca. 1760) 1822
S14 Abipon S14



now would fill the whole market-place, or they extend from this grove to the river's bank. With this reply, which gives them an idea of the quantity of horses, they remain satisfied, though uninformed of the exact number. Sometimes they take up a handful of sand or grass, and showing it to the interrogator, endeavour in this way to express an immense quantity. But when number is spoken of, take care you do not readily credit whatever the Abipones say. They are not ignorant of arithmetic, but averse to it. Their memory generally fails them. They cannot endure the tedious process of counting. Hence to rid themselves of questions on the subject, they show as many fingers as they like, sometimes deceived themselves, sometimes deceiving others. Often, if the number about which you ask exceed three, an Abipon, to save himself the trouble of showing his fingers, will cry *Pòp!* many. *Chic leyekalipì*, innumerable. Sometimes, when ten soldiers are coming, the assembled people will exclaim, *Yoaliripì latenk nalieretápek*, a very great number of men are approaching.

But still greater is their want of numerals, which grammarians call ordinals, for they cannot count beyond first: *Era námachìt*, the first. So that the Ten Commandments are reckoned in this way: the first commandment, *Era náma-*